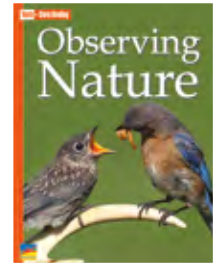


Name: _____

Unit 3: Observing Nature

Daily Take-Home Activity Calendar

Check off each activity as you complete it.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	A Bird's Free Lunch pp. 4–5 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read aloud the introduction on page 4 and then read the excerpt together, alternating paragraphs. Point out the word solitary in paragraph 3 and ask your child to find clues to the word's meaning. Then take turns using the adjective in sentences. 	A Bird's Free Lunch pp. 4–5 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the photos and labels that accompany the text. Together, use a bird book or web site to locate photos of the other two types of birds mentioned in the excerpt. (chickadee, kinglet) 	The Shimerdas pp. 6–7 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read aloud the introduction on page 6 and then read the first two pages of the excerpt together, alternating paragraphs. Discuss what clues help readers understand that the narrator is new to the area. 	The Shimerdas pp. 8–9 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the last two pages together, alternating paragraphs. Then reread the last paragraph of the introduction on page 6. Discuss details that make the setting “come to life.” 	The Birdseed Thief p. 10 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite your child to read aloud the story. Then invite him or her to draw a picture showing how Jason and Mom solve the problems mentioned in the selection.
Week 2	Being in and Seeing Nature: The Writing of John Burroughs pp. 12–13 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite your child to read aloud the poem. Discuss how the poem is an example of the way Burroughs likes to “think deeply about what he was seeing.” 	Being in and Seeing Nature: The Writing of John Burroughs pp. 14–15 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read aloud the next two pages of the selection together, alternating paragraphs. Make a list of facts about chipmunks that Burroughs includes, even though his style is literary. 	Being in and Seeing Nature: The Writing of John Burroughs pp. 16–18 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read aloud the next three pages of the selection together, alternating paragraphs. Discuss ways the chipmunk stays aware of his surroundings and keeps safe. 	Being in and Seeing Nature: The Writing of John Burroughs p. 19 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite your child to complete the selection. Discuss places of nature you have seen that you think John Burroughs would have liked to visit and observe. 	Waiting for Spring p. 20 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite your child to read aloud the selection. Reread the two sentences containing the word traditions. Discuss traditions your family observes in winter and spring.
Week 3	Birches pp. 22–23 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read aloud the first page of the poem together, alternating sentences. Work together to match word details in the poem to visual details you see in the photo. 	Birches pp. 24–26 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read aloud page 24 through line 41 on page 26, alternating lines. Ask your child to explain how to ride a tree in his or her own words. 	Birches pp. 26–27 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish reading aloud the selection together. Then reread the caption on page 24. Discuss what the term “philosophical themes” might mean based on the last page of the poem. 	In Summer pp. 28–29 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the poem together, alternating stanzas. Point out that both this poem and “Birches” refer to the carefree lives of boys. Discuss what message this reference provides for readers of “In Summer.” 	Birch Bark Canoes p. 30 <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite your child to read aloud the selection. Together, find an informational book or web site on birch bark canoes and make a model of one from paper and other household items.